

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants submit herewith one replacement sheet of Fig. 5 with a “Prior Art” label.

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 9-12, 20, 21 and 22, as amended, remain herein. Claim 4 is amended, and claims 1, 5-8, 13-18 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. A replacement Fig. 5 with a label "Prior Art" is submitted to moot the objection.
2. Claim 4 is amended to moot the objection.
3. Applicants' specification is amended to correct an editorial error.
4. Claims 2, 3, 10-12 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") and Tomimoto JP2000-243034. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA, Tomimoto and Jones '909. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA, Tomimoto and Muramatsu '203.

Claims 2 and 3 recite, in relevant part, "a control circuit for performing baseline control for the output of the waveform equalizer and the output of the A/D converter on the basis of the output of the waveform equalizer." While the Office Action points to the control circuit 107 of AAPA as allegedly describing applicants' claimed "control circuit," the control circuit 107 of AAPA fails to teach or suggest that a baseline control is performed on the output of the waveform equalizer. The only baseline control performed in the AAPA is on the output of the A/D converter. See Applicants' Specification: page 3, lines 3-17.

In applicants' invention embodied in applicants' claims 2 and 3, waveform equalization with higher accuracy is carried out by performing data optimization in the time axis direction and the amplitude direction separately in different systems. The resulting readout performance is thus enhanced by separately performing baseline control on the respective outputs of the

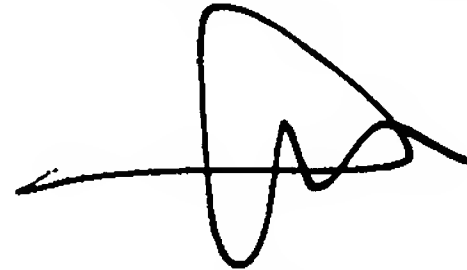
waveform equalizer and the A/D converter. Tomimoto, Jones and Maramatsu all fail to fill this deficiency of AAPA.

Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of AAPA, Tomimoto, Jones, Maramatsu or anything else in this record, of all elements of applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in AAPA, Tomimoto, Jones, Maramatsu or anything else in this record that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Still further, there is no disclosure or teaching in AAPA, Tomimoto, Jones, Maramatsu and no sound basis stated in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 2-4, 9-12 and 20-22 are requested.

Accordingly, all claims 2-4, 9-12, and 20-22 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP



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